

Message

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Subject: Daily News Digest, Thursday, Sept. 14
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1 Some in Crossroads must still boil water, Victoria Advocate, 9/13/17

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2017/sep/13/some-in-crossroads-must-still-boil-water/>

About 2,500 households in the Crossroads are still boiling their water after a Category 4 hurricane made landfall on the Texas Coast. The number comes from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Calhoun County and Victoria County have the most water systems under a boil water notice, with four each.

2 Why the U.S. Government Is Tapping In to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

http://host.madison.com/business/investment/markets-and-stocks/why-the-u-s-government-is-tapping-in-to-the/article_c1c6734f-0ef6-5dc4-a3a9-7376cc540bb4.html

Hurricane Harvey did untold amounts of damage to Texas -- preliminary estimates for the cost of recovery are around \$190 billion. In this clip from Industry Focus, Motley Fool analysts Sarah Priestley and Taylor Muckerman explain why that total is so huge, and what it means for the oil industry that Energy Secretary Rick Perry announced it was lending 500,000 barrels of oil to producer Phillips 66 (NYSE: PSX)

3 Texas begins long march toward recovery from Hurricane Harvey, La Vernia News, 9/14/17

<http://www.lavernianews.com/article.php?id=2523&n=featured-column-texas-begins-long-march-toward-recovery-hurricane-harvey>

As contaminated waters receded and mountains of debris from flooded homes and ruined belongings grew last week, a picture of post-hurricane Texas developed and the process of weighing impacts to lives, property, and infrastructure began. Gov. Greg Abbott delivered a series of announcements and proclamations related to catastrophic flooding and wind damage brought by Hurricane Harvey to more than 50 Gulf Coast and inland counties in late August and early September.

4 Cities Swimming in Raw Sewage as Hurricanes Overwhelm Systems, Gov Tech, 9/14/17

<http://www.govtech.com/em/disaster/Cities-Swimming-in-Raw-Sewage-as-Hurricanes-Overwhelm-Systems.html>

Hurricane Harvey took aim at one of the nation's most industrial regions, releasing a stream of toxic pollutants from chemical plants, refineries and Superfund sites in Texas. But when its bigger sister Irma slammed into Florida, environmental alarms rang over a different kind of discharge: raw sewage. Millions of gallons of poorly treated wastewater and raw sewage flowed into the bays, canals and city streets of Florida from facilities serving some of the nation's fastest-growing counties.

5 With Mosquito Threat Growing, Harris County Begins Aerial Sprays, Houston Press, 9/13/17

<http://www.houstonpress.com/news/with-mosquito-threat-growing-because-of-harvey-county-begins-aerial-sprays-of-dibrom-9787576>

With standing water and piles of debris from Hurricane Harvey creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes, the Harris County Public Health Department has authorized the aerial spraying of Dibrom, an EPA-approved pesticide, over 600,000 acres of the county starting Thursday. "About 10 to 14 days after a flood like this, you're going to have an increase in mosquito activity," said Dr. Umair A. Shah, the executive director of the public health department, in an interview with the Houston Press on Tuesday. "We're already seeing it."

6 Air Pollution From Industry Plagues Houston In Harvey's Wake, NPR, 9/17/17

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/09/14/550472740/air-pollution-from-industry-plagues-houston-in-harveys-wake>

On the first sunny day in Houston after about 50 inches of rain, residents in the east Houston community of Manchester emerged from their homes and gave thanks that their neighborhood had been spared in the floods. "Mama, yeah, I just feel blessed," said 73-year-old Maria Julia Rodriguez, standing in her driveway in late August and marveling at her luck. "God was looking out for us, I guess."

7 Hurricane Harvey Alert: Addressing Environmental Releases and Obligations, National Law Review, 9/13/17

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/hurricane-harvey-alert-addressing-environmental-releases-and-obligations>

As the cleanup begins, companies face challenges in meeting existing environmental obligations and addressing the environmental impacts of the storm. The havoc caused by Hurricane Harvey, including in some instances environmental crises caused by the storm, has been widely reported.

8 Harvey-Damaged Water Systems To Receive Emergency Aid from Loan Program, KUHT, 9/13/17

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2017/09/13/237027/harvey-damaged-water-systems-to-receive-emergency-aid-from-loan-program/>

Texas is set to receive faster aid for water systems hit by Harvey, with the Environmental Protection Agency agreeing to speed up funding for water infrastructure repairs. State environmental regulators said Tuesday that 20 drinking water systems and 31 wastewater systems were still shut down from Harvey. In the Houston area, that's led to potentially dangerous bacteria levels in floodwaters.

Around the Region:

9 Houston EPA lab set to close, Express News, 9/13/17

<http://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/Houston-EPA-lab-set-to-close-12195927.php>

Conservationists and labor union officials argued Wednesday that the potential closing of the Environmental Protection Agency's regional lab in Houston, which is expected to play a key role in Hurricane Harvey recovery, is among harmful impacts of the Trump administration's drive to slice staff and mission in the agency. The EPA's Region 6 Environmental Services Laboratory, which serves a five-state region, is scheduled for closing when the lease on its rented, 41,000 square-foot space in southwest Houston expires in 2020, officials of the American Federation of Government Employees said they were told.

10 Cattle company won't move dairy facility to Panhandle amid resident opposition, Lubbock Avalanche, 9/13/17

<http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/news/2017-09-13/cattle-company-won-t-move-dairy-facility-panhandle-amid-resident>

A proposal by Bowers Land and Cattle Family to move a dairy facility just west of Panhandle was withdrawn Tuesday evening during a public meeting in which hundreds gathered in opposition. Chandler Bowers stunned the audience when he formally withdrew his family's request to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to operate a dairy cattle facility a half mile north of County Road J and Highway 60.

11 UNT named one of the top green power users by the EPA, North Texas Daily, 9/14/17

<http://ntdaily.com/unt-named-one-of-the-top-green-power-users-by-the-epa/>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) named UNT No. 11 on its Green Power Partnership Top 30 College and University list. UNT participates in green programming through the Student Sustainability Office's We Mean Green Fund (WMGF), a fund every student pays into with a \$5 environmental service fee during the spring and fall semesters. WMGF is dedicated to limiting UNT's effect on the environment.

12 'Ozone Action Day' declared for Austin area, KVUE, 9/13/17

<http://www.kvue.com/weather/0913-austin-ozone-action-day/474388101>

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has issued an Ozone Action Day for Austin and San Antonio metro areas for Wednesday. Action days are declared when the Air Quality Index (AQI) gets to the level where the air is unhealthy for sensitive groups, and higher levels of ozone are possible. "Ozone mainly forms in the

highest concentrations on warm, sunny days with light wind speeds, which allows more of the pollutant to form and accumulate,” TCEQ said.

13 Lead at Cross Bayou site 31 times safe level: site report, Shreveport Times, 9/14/17

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/story/news/2017/09/14/lead-cross-bayou-site-31-times-safe-level-site-report/653969001/>

It's unclear whether the City of Shreveport will continue to buy land at the Cross Bayou project site now that the city council has killed Mayor Ollie Tyler's bond funding proposal. Shreveport Chief Administrative Officer Brian Crawford at a public meeting hosted Aug. 30 by the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce that the city would proceed with negotiating for the land along Cross Bayou regardless of whether the Pelicans chose Shreveport as home for a minor league affiliate.

14 U.S. and Mexico set to sign landmark Colorado River water-sharing deal, Desert Sun, 9/13/17

<http://www.desertsun.com/story/news/environment/2017/09/13/u-s-and-mexico-set-sign-landmark-colorado-river-water-sharing-deal/663017001/>

The U.S. and Mexican governments are close to signing a landmark Colorado River deal that will establish rules for sharing water over the next decade and lay out cooperative efforts intended to head off severe shortages. Mexican and American officials have scheduled a signing ceremony on Sept. 26 in Ciudad Juárez, officials at California water districts said this week. They said that formal event will be followed by a ceremonial signing in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Sept. 27 attended by representatives from U.S. states.

15 HOUSTON EPA LAB SLATED TO CLOSE, PSMAG, 9/14/17

<https://psmag.com/environment/houston-epa-lab-slated-to-close>

The Environmental Protection Agency's regional lab in Houston, Texas, is slated to close in 2020, the Houston Chronicle reports. The Region 6 Environmental Services Laboratory, which is expected to be a hub of soil and water testing in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, employs about 50 people and serves five states.

16 Texas begins long march toward recovery from Hurricane Harvey, La Vernia News, 9/14/17

<http://www.lavernianews.com/article.php?id=2523&n=featured-column-texas-begins-long-march-toward-recovery-hurricane-harvey>

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17 They got hundreds of thousands to rally. Where does the March for Science go from here?, STAT, 9/14/17

<https://www.statnews.com/2017/09/14/march-for-science-future/>

The hundreds of thousands of people who rallied on the National Mall and in cities worldwide for the March for Science in April came to be noticed. It was a march meant to demonstrate enthusiasm and political clout, and by those measures, organizers believe they succeeded. But as two dozen of them met in New York the following month for a debrief, they faced an obvious reality: A grass-roots organization that was quickly formed to plan a singular event was not, at least immediately, equipped for far-reaching and long-term science advocacy.

18 Houston's 'flood czar' says Harvey has brought the city to a decision point on flood control, Texas Tribune, 9/13/17

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/09/13/follow-conversation-houstons-flood-czar/>

When we caught up with Houston's newly-appointed "flood czar" last year, he told us he had no money and no staff. That's still largely the case, Stephen Costello told us in an interview on Tuesday at his Houston City Hall office. He now has one paid staff member.

19 Louisiana will use \$20 million in BP fines to expand a coastal monitoring program, Lens, 9/13/17

<http://thelensnola.org/2017/09/13/louisiana-will-use-20-million-in-bp-fines-to-expand-a-coastal-monitoring-program/>

Louisiana has received \$19.5 million in fines from the 2010 BP oil spill to expand a system to collect data on the effect of coastal restoration projects. The System-Wide Assessment and Monitoring Program, or SWAMP, monitors changes in Louisiana's ecosystem over time. Among other things, it evaluates how human factors like restoration projects and climate change affect the environment, including wildlife, fisheries and certain types of vegetation.

20 Metro Council to consider requirements for higher building elevations, more green spaces for new construction in the floodplain, Advocate, 9/13/17

http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/environment/article_ed983a6c-98a6-11e7-9330-b3a51215a367.html

In the future, new houses in Baton Rouge may need to be built higher, new neighborhoods could face additional drainage requirements, and construction of all types might have to allocate more green spaces. The Metro Council on Wednesday directed planning staff to review the city-parish's floodplain ordinance and think of ways to encourage building projects designed to keep residents dry in a storm.

21 Wildlife refuge in bad shape after hurricane, Victoria Advocate, 9/13/17

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2017/sep/13/wildlife-refuge-in-bad-shape-after-hurricane/>

Damaged marshland might displace whooping cranes this fall. Wade Harrell, who is coordinating the endangered species' recovery for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, got his first look at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on Wednesday after Category 4 Hurricane Harvey made landfall Aug. 25.